

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
ON THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM FRED PONDER TO SUCCEED  
R. L. GAMBLE AS SOUTH CAROLINA LABOR COMMISSIONER, JANUARY 28,  
1948.

I have today appointed William Fred Ponder, of Wellford,  
South Carolina Commissioner of Labor to succeed R. L. Gamble, whose term has  
expired.

I considered the qualifications desirable for this post, and concluded after long deliberation that Mr. Ponder, on the basis of his ability and proven record, is eminently fitted for it.

Mr. Ponder was valedictorian of his high school class. He attended Wofford College and studied law at the Southeastern University Law School.

Long interested in public affairs, he was a member of the House of Representatives from Spartanburg County in 1935 and 1936. He is a member of the governing board of the Spartanburg County Farmers Market.

Mr. Ponder's skill, fairness, and diplomacy in mediation earned for him the respect of both labor and management. He brings a superb background to his new post. He became Inspector of the South Carolina Department of Labor when that Department was established. Later serving as Inspector in the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor, he left the Federal service to return to South Carolina as Deputy Labor Commissioner.

For the past 7 years Mr. Ponder has been Commissioner of Conciliation in the United States Conciliation Service of the United States Department of Labor. He has worked mostly in South Carolina and North Carolina, and is thoroughly conversant with the labor-management situation in our State.



Mr. Ponder comes highly recommended by the members of the Spartan-  
burg County Delegation, leaders in the labor and industrial fields, as well as  
other prominent people in different sections of South Carolina.